



MPSCS BULLETIN

Inside this Issue:

MPSCS Spotlight	2
MPSCS Showcased Before Congress	2
Stretching Your Budget	3
MPSCS Makes the Grade With PSWN	3
Welcome New Members	4

- **MPSCS Showcased before U.S. Congress**
– See Page 2.
- **Fiscal Year 2004 Grant Outlook** – See Page 3.
- **MPSCS Makes the Grade with PSWN** – See Page 3.

Editor's Note

We would like to thank you for your interest in MPSCS. We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you may have to improve the quality of this publication. You may direct them by phone to the Michigan Public Safety Communications System 517.336.6240 or by e-mail at mpscs@michigan.gov.

MPSCS SHINES THROUGH MICHIGAN CRITICAL EVENTS

The first-responders of Michigan will likely remember the summer of 2003 as a pressing and eventful season filled with a multitude of emergencies occurring in nearly every region of the state. Each of these emergencies had the potential to be a communications nightmare for responding public safety agencies, however, with the assistance of the MPSCS, incident command of each of these critical events ran a bit more fluently than they would have in the past. In addition to providing for routine public safety radio communication, the MPSCS also recently played a key role in four Michigan emergencies.

The first of these emergencies was the flooding of Marquette County last May. The flood, which caused the evacuation of nearly 2,000 residents and the isolation of the entire Big Bay region, had the potential to become a communications nightmare for all area first responders. Fortunately, the police, fire and EMS agencies of Marquette county had recently joined the MPSCS and were therefore able to have total interoperability. The MPSCS also loaned additional radios, chargers and batteries to the area's public safety personnel.

The radios received an outstanding report from Marquette County Sheriff Michael Lovelace. He commended the MPSCS for providing the clearest communication across the county's rough terrain, free from interference or busy signals.

"The MPSCS was a God send to our agency during the recent Silver Lake Dam Breach and Dead River Basin Flood," said Lovelace. "The Marquette County Sheriffs' Office is elated with the 800 MHz radio system and the State of Michigan's generosity in making it available to all public safety agencies in the State."

The second critical event of the season took place nearly 500 miles away in Benton Harbor. On June 17, 2003, hundreds of people rioted in the city streets for three days. As a result of the disturbance, 15 people were injured, 10 arrests were made and the City of Benton Harbor incurred well over a million dollars in damages.

289 spare batteries, 24 chargers and 58 MPSCS radios were immediately sent to aid in emergency communications efforts.

In addition to providing the spare equipment, the Paw Paw Radio Shop provided technical assistance to responding public safety personnel. This included

setting up control stations at the incident command center within the Berrien County Sheriff Department and securing several special event talkgroups for officers at the scene.

Interoperability between responding agencies during the riots was achieved through the MPSCS. The Berrien County Sheriff Department joined the MPSCS in 2000. In 2001 and 2002, 20 local public safety agencies from Berrien County joined the system as well. This allowed for immediate interoperability for many of the first responders at the scene. The remaining agencies were then loaned MPSCS radios to ensure total interoperability during the event.



The flooding of the Dead River left many motorists and residents in Marquette County stranded for days.

The third critical event occurred on July 7, when local police attempted to serve Fremont resident Scott Woodring an arrest warrant for the solicitation of sex from a minor. Woodring barricaded himself into his home which led to the activation of the Michigan State Police Emergency Support Team. When the team attempted to enter the home, Trooper Kevin Marshall was shot and killed by the suspect. This led to a

two-day standoff and an eventual five-day manhunt for Woodring.

A command center was established by the State Police and area law-enforcement, including the Newaygo, Oceana and Mason County sheriff departments and local police.

The MPSCS served as a backbone for incident command during this time. Three separate event talkgroups were set up to accommodate personnel at the scene. Responding officers from all agencies, crime scene investigators and detectives, and Emergency Support Team members each received a special event talkgroup that was monitored simultaneously by incident commanders.

On July 13, the Emergency Support Team received a tip that led them to Woodring. When the suspect refused to surrender and pointed a rifle at the officers, he was shot and killed, bringing the six-day event to a close. The MPSCS received positive reviews from all responding agencies. Among the positive comments were the MPSCS' ability to organize event communications into separate talkgroups and the outstanding level of coverage in a rural area where static and dead spots are a commonplace on conventional radio systems. The public safety agencies of Newaygo County were able to receive a first-hand look at the MPSCS in an emergency situation. This fall, they will be transitioning their radio communications to the MPSCS.

The final and perhaps most notorious emergency this summer was the August 13 blackout that left over 2.1 million Michigan residents in the dark for up to three days. The

USER TRAINING SCHEDULE

User Training will be held at the MPSCS headquarters in Lansing on the following dates:

Wednesday, October 22 2003

Tuesday, December 2, 2003

Classes begin at 9 a.m. and last a full day. They are held at the Collins Centre in Lansing.

Class space is reserved on a first-come first-serve basis and is limited to 15 students.

For questions or to reserve a slot, contact Ms. Jill Behnke at 517.336.6674 or via e-mail at behnkej@michigan.gov.

Want to know how well

COVERAGE TESTING

MPSCS performs in your jurisdiction? Contact the 800 MHz/9-1-1 Section to schedule coverage testing.

Coverage testing is not only a means of determining signal strength in your area, it is also an effective way for public safety officers and administrators to learn more about the system in a hands-on environment.

Coverage testing is free of charge and only requires that you select a small group of officers in your jurisdiction to participate in the assessment.

For questions or to schedule coverage testing, please contact Ms. Jill Behnke at 517.336.6674 or via e-mail at behnkej@michigan.gov.

MPSCS SPOTLIGHT *Laurium Radio Shop*

At a total investment of \$220 million, MPSCS remains today as Michigan's largest ever single-vendor contract. Protecting this viable resource are 43 specially trained radio technicians geographically located across the state. In the coming issues of the MPSCS Bulletin, we will be profiling each of our 12 radio shops in an effort to show our readers the integral role each of them plays in the continued success of MPSCS.

The MPSCS spotlight begins in the Village of Laurium. Located on the U.P.'s Keweenaw Peninsula, north of Houghton/Hancock, the Laurium Radio Shop overseen by Del Rajala experiences some of the most unique climatic and geographic challenges of any radio shop. On any given day, Del may have to travel over 100 miles in a season-average 20 feet of snow!

The Laurium Radio shop is a one-man operation that opened in 2002 after the MPSCS became operational in the Upper Peninsula. The shop maintains all MPSCS infrastructure and radio equipment in Keweenaw, Houghton, Baraga and Ontonagon counties including providing services to the Calumet and L'Anse State Police posts and local member agencies. The shop also assists with communications in three state parks including McLain, Fort Wilkins and Twin Lakes.

Recently, the Laurium Radio Shop was called upon to assure continued emergency 9-1-1 service to the Keweenaw Peninsula region. In August, the

region experienced its second long-distance telephone outage of the year. Once again, the Keweenaw Peninsula region was left completely isolated, unable to communicate for assistance or receive 9-1-1 calls for three hours. The MPSCS was the region's only source of communication. Del received notification of the outage from MPSCS member Keweenaw County and

was able to contact the Negaunee Regional Dispatch Center using his MPSCS radio on behalf of Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Del worked with Negaunee over his 800 MHz radio in an effort to reroute 9-1-1 calls.

As a result of the MPSCS and Del's quick response, emergency 9-1-1 service in the region was not interrupted and a means of establishing communications off the peninsula was immediate during the repair of the telephone

communications cable.

The Laurium Radio Shop works closely with the Sawyer and Iron River radio shops to ensure the continued operation of MPSCS in the region. The efforts of Del and the rest of the MPSCS radio technicians help protect the State of Michigan's tremendous radio communications investment. If you wish to contact your local radio shop for a service request visit our Web site at www.mpscs.com for a shop directory or send an e-mail to mmp-radio@michigan.gov.



Laurium Radio Shop Technician Del Rajala Supports MPSCS Operations in Four U.P. Counties.

MPSCS SHOWCASED BEFORE CONGRESS

Staff members of MPSCS recently gave U.S. Representatives a glimpse of the future of public safety two-way radio communications during a house committee in June.

In his prepared testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, F/Lt. Gene Adamczyk of the Michigan State Police outlined the history, features and benefits of the MPSCS.

The hearing entitled, "The Spectrum Needs of Our Nation's First Responders" was called in order to address the shortage of radio frequency available to public safety agencies throughout the nation. The lack of interoperability between federal, state and local public safety agencies was also addressed.

"Hundreds of firefighters perished on September 11 because the New York Police and Fire Departments

were using separate communications systems," said Representative Jane Harman. "When first responders converge during an emergency they must be able to communicate in real time."

F/Lt. Adamczyk's testimony provided insight as to how Michigan is working to promote communications interoperability between police, fire, EMS, public works and transportation officials.

The hearing highlighted the proposed legislation that will enforce the freeing up of radio spectrum for the public safety community. If the bill passes, Michigan will be able to take advantage of the additional frequency providing a more efficient means for its first responders to communicate.

MPSCS SHINES THROUGH MICHIGAN CRITICAL EVENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

(Continued on Page 3)

blackout is now being called the worst in U.S. history.

The MPSCS performed flawlessly during the event. Emergency generators assured that the system remained operational and thus the blackout was truly a non-issue for public safety agencies communicating via the MPSCS. Radio technicians from the Northville and Lansing Radio Shops should be commended for their hard work and preventative maintenance during the blackout. Oil levels in the emergency generators of each affected MPSCS tower were checked regularly by radio technicians assuring that power sources were adequate.

Because landline telephones and cellular service were largely impacted by the outage, the MPSCS

became the only viable source of public safety communication to some members in the region.

In a letter of praise to the State of Michigan, Shelby Township Supervisor Ralph Maccarone stated that the Township had experienced disruption to many of its communications services.

"The sole and singular exception was the 800 MHz radio system," stated Maccarone. "It operated flawlessly throughout the entire incident."

Critical events and emergencies such as these are a commonplace for the state of Michigan. The need for reliable and interoperable communications will only increase as the scope of these emergencies inevitably widens. The State of Michigan is confident that the MPSCS will meet this



Benton Harbor area firefighters battle one of six house fires set ablaze by rioters on June 17.

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STRETCHING YOUR BUDGET Fiscal Year 2004 Grant Outlook

With Fiscal Year 2004 about to begin, new opportunities for interoperable communications equipment are on the horizon.

As most public safety agencies are likely aware, funding opportunities for communications equipment are not always easy to acquire. With the recent efforts of the U.S. Legislature and organizations like the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN), however, communications interoperability is quickly becoming a greater priority, making the outlook for fiscal year 2004 more optimistic than years of the past.

Prospective members looking to join the MPSCS are in a favorable position to receive future funding, as the new communications equipment grants hold interoperability and technology standards that are thus far unique to the State of

Michigan's system.

The MPSCS would like to assist your agency in obtaining funds. New this fall, will be an e-mail notification system that will be used to announce grant opportunities and information as it becomes available. If you would like to be added to the MPSCS funding opportunity distribution list, send an e-mail to mpscsgrants@michigan.gov. Please list the name and e-mail address that will receive the notification.

We will also continue to announce useful information about funding resources in the MPSCS Bulletin and on our Web site. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kelly Maltby at 517.336.6675 or via e-mail at

MPSCS MAKES THE GRADE WITH PSWN

The state of Michigan continues to serve as an example to other jurisdictions across the nation looking to promote public safety interoperability in their regions.

This spring, the members of the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN) scored each state and federal agency on interoperability in its "State of the States" report. The states' grades specifically focused on six key areas that contributed to an overall score. These areas include: shared systems development, coordination and partnerships, funding, spectrum, standards and technology, and security.

Michigan was one of only 14 states to receive the highest rating of "established interoperability." The State of Michigan's efforts scored above average in each key area including a perfect rating in the spectrum and

security categories.

Michigan's efforts to achieve public safety interoperability serve as a worldwide model for all units of government. The MPSCS headquarters in Lansing hosts government officials from across the nation and the globe on a regular basis.

Some recent visitors to the facility are the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Montana, and Pemex, the federally-owned petroleum distributor of Mexico.

If your agency would like to visit the MPSCS, or learn more about the system, please contact Ms. Jill Behnke at 517.336.6674 or via e-mail at behnkej@michigan.gov.

MPSCS State Advisory Board Members

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Michigan Association of
Chiefs of Police



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

10,680 Radios Online

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WEB AT
WWW.MPSCS.COM*

Southeast Michigan Agencies

Clay Township Police Department
Hartland-Deerfield-Tyrone Fire Authority
Huron Valley Ambulance
Tri-Hospital Emergency Management Services

Southwest Michigan Agencies

Calhoun County 9-1-1

Mid-Michigan Agencies

Fremont Police Department
Grant Police Department
Mount Pleasant Police Department
Newaygo County 9-1-1
Newaygo County Sheriff Department
Newaygo Police Department

Northern Michigan Agencies

Bay Mills Conservation Enforcement
Calumet Township
Chippewa County Central Dispatch
Gogebic County 9-1-1
Gogebic County Transit
Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
Northern Michigan University Public Safety

Local Emergency Management Divisions

Allegan County
Alpena County
City of Ann Arbor
Arenac County
Baraga County
Bay County
Benzie County
City of Birmingham
Bloomfield Township
Calhoun County
Canton Township
Charlevoix County
Chippewa County
Clare County
Clinton County
Clinton Township
City of Dearborn
Dearborn Heights
Delta Township
City of Detroit
Eaton County
Emmet County
City of Farmington Hills
Genesee County
Gladwin County
Hillsdale County
Iron County
City of Ionia
Ionia County
Isabella County
Jackson County
Kalkaska County
Kent County
Lake County
City of Lansing
Lapeer County
Lenawee County
City of Lincoln Park
City of Livonia
Luce County
Manistee County
Mecosta County
Midland County
Missaukee County
Monroe County
Montcalm County
Muskegon County
Newaygo County
Ogemaw County
Osceola County
Ottawa County
City of Owosso
City of Port Huron
City of Romulus
Saginaw County
Sanilac County
Shiawassee County
City of Southfield
Tuscola County
City of Warren
City of Wayne
Wayne County